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BY TELEFAX TO: (703) 872-9306

DOCKET NO.: 4277

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Masao OCHI et al.

| ART UNIT: 1723

USSN: 09/996,517

| CONF. NO. 3531

FILED: November 28, 2001

EX.: M. O. Savage

FOR: Filtration Apparatus

MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

May 5, 2004

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 5, 2004, INCLUDING AN ATTACHED COVER SHEET WITH CERTIFICATE OF TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above identified application as follows.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

4277/WFF:ar